



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES

MONDAY

AUGUST 23, 2021

6:00 P.M.

In Attendance: This meeting was held remotely – all participated remotely

Mayor Shelby Wright

Councilor Eric Jarvi

Councilor Mark Cormier

Councilor Ivan McPike

Councilor Allen Esposito

Councilor Peter Erickson

Councilor Christine Cubberley

Paula Scott, Town Manager

Amy Ryder, Economic Development Director

Other Members of the Public

Mayor Wright called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Wright asked if there were any objections from Council to suspend this agenda item. With no objection this item was suspended.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Wright indicated that the agenda needed to be amended and that would be to add Shelly Sargent to the list of appointment candidates for the RSU 22 Board of Directors.

Motion: *Councilor Jarvi moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilor McPike. Vote by roll call 5-0 with Councilor's McPike, Jarvi, Esposito, Erickson and Mayor Wright voting in the affirmative.*

Resolution: 2021-167

C. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: *Councilor Esposito moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilor Jarvi. Vote by roll call 5-0 with Councilor's McPike, Jarvi, Esposito, Erickson and Mayor Wright voting in the affirmative.*

Resolution: 2021 - 168

1. SIGNATURES

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

a. 8/16/21 Council Meeting

3. COMMUNICATIONS

4. COMMITTEE MINUTES

Note: Council will take a five-minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Town resident Thomas Frey, Physician spoke to the CDC recommendations for COVID 19 and that what's going on right now is that the virus is very aggressively infecting people. The ICU and the hospital are getting full rapidly. He asks that the Town Council support and even mandate the universal mask wearing that the CDC is recommending for all indoor areas and particularly for all those areas where children are present who are unable to be vaccinated. Town resident Allene Frey spoke on COVID 19 stating that the Delta Virus is incredibly scary and that we can make a difference by mandating masks for indoor gatherings, no matter whether you're vaccinated or unvaccinated and at least for the children. She would like to see the Council consider masking, including the pool, the library, recreation activities and the RSU 22.

E. POLICY AGENDA

1. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Adoption of an Ordinance to Authorize the Appropriation and Borrowing of up to \$4,500,000 to Finance Construction of a Municipal Broadband Network.

Motion: *Councilor Jarvi moved to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilor McPike. Vote by roll call 6-0 with Councilor's McPike, Jarvi, and Mayor Wright voting in the affirmative and Councilor's Esposito and Erickson voting in opposition to.*

Resolution: 2021 – 169

Town Bond Counsel Dan Pittman spoke explaining the Ordinance. This is an Ordinance that would authorize borrowing up to 4.5 million for the purpose of constructing a Municipal Broadband network. The expectation, although this has not been decided, would be to borrow through the Municipal Bond Bank. He estimates a very conservative interest rate at 3.1%. Although, if we do decide to go through with the project we would not be closing until next spring and who knows what interest rates will be then. The idea is we would borrow the 4.5 million, spend that to build a municipal broadband network and hopefully, but there's no guarantee, the revenues generated through the Municipal network would be sufficient to repay the interest on the bonds, such that it wouldn't wind up costing the taxpayers, it would come out of the notes. But his understanding of the structure that we are looking at would not make that a guarantee. The full faith and credit of Hampden would be pledged for the repayment of the bonds, so that if revenues were not sufficient to fund expenses the payment would have to come from somewhere else. Economic Development Director Amy Ryder gave an update on the broadband project.

Note: Council will take a five-minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Motion: After public comment and Council discussion Councilor Cubberley made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilor Jarvi. Vote by roll call 7-0 with all Councilor's voting in the affirmative.

Resolution: 2021 – 170

Motion: Councilor Jarvi moved Council adopt the Borrowing Ordinance as prescribed by bond Council, seconded by Councilor Cubberley. Vote by roll call 4-3 with Councilor's Jarvi, Cubberley, McPike and Mayor Wright voting in the affirmative and Councilor's, Cormier, Esposito and Erickson voting in opposition to.

Resolution: 2021-171

3. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS

a. Appointment of an Interim Director to the RSU 22 Board of Directors, to serve until November 8, 2022 Municipal Election.

1. Debra D. Plowman
2. Jillian C. Sarnacki-Wood
3. Brian J. Moussally
4. Shelly Sargent – (Council voted to add to the Agenda)

Each candidate was given two minutes to introduce themselves to the council and the community and Council asked questions to the Candidates.

Motion: Councilor Jarvi moved Council appoint Jillian C. Sarnacki-Wood as an interim director to the RSU 22 Board of Directors to serve until November 8, 2022 Municipal Election, seconded by Councilor Cubberley. Vote by roll call 3-4 with Councilors Cubberley, Jarvi and Mayor Wright voting in the affirmative and Councilor's McPike, Esposito, Cormier and Erickson voting in opposition to.

Resolution: 2021: 172

Motion: Councilor McPike nominated Debra Plowman, seconded. Vote by roll call 3-4 with Councilor's McPike, Erickson and Cormier in the affirmative and Councilor's Cubberley, Jarvi, Esposito and Mayor Wright in opposition to.

Resolution: 2021: 173

Motion: Councilor Wright nominated Brian Moussally, seconded by Councilor Erickson. Vote by roll call 2-5 with Councilor Erickson and Mayor Wright voting in the affirmative and Councilor's Cubberley, Jarvi, McPike, Cormier and Esposito voting in opposition to.

Resolution: 2021: 174

Motion: Councilor Jarvi nominated Jillian Sarnacki-Wood, seconded by Councilor Cubberley. Vote by Roll Call 4-3 with Councilor's Cubberley, Jarvi, Erickson and Mayor Wright in the affirmative and Councilor's Esposito, Cormier and McPike in opposition to.

Resolution: 2021: 175

Note: Council will take a five-minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

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MINUTES

- F. COMMITTEE REPORT
- G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- H. NEW BUSINESS
- I. MANAGER'S REPORT
- J. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

Councilor Cubberley – I'm blown away by the participation and I just wanted to say that I'm so happy so many people got involved, very touchy subject, but this is great to see people involved. I'm very happy. Thank you.

Councilor McPike – To the Town Manager, will we be open tomorrow? Yes. Thank you.

Councilor Jarvi – I really enjoy working with my colleagues on this Council. The decisions are never easy, but it's the deliberative process that makes it work and I appreciate the work of all of you and your comments. Thank you very much.

Councilor Cormier – No comment.

Councilor Esposito – I just wanted to say I love this Town. I love this Town, I love the people in it and it's a blessing to serve on the Council and to get to engage with so many people in here. And to see how many people care about their community. Granted it might be different than how I do it, but they care, and they have passion and I think that is the best part of this. So, I want to say thank you

Councilor Erickson - Amen Alan. Thank you.

Mayor Wright - Ditto to everything that my fellow councilors said. Hampden is a great community and obviously has very thoughtful and concerned citizens. We care about our children. We care about our town. We care about our neighbors and it's really nice to see that even if the issue is a little tenuous that we still come together for a community with the underlying issue that we care about it and we care about each other and we want what's best, even if sometimes we don't always agree on the best way to get there. But it's absolutely heartwarming and I am pleased and privileged to serve the community, as I'm sure as my other councilors have echoed. So, goodnight Hampden.

- K. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gayle C. Decker, Town Clerk*

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